

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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Entered at the Postoffice of Honolulu, H. T., Second-Class matter.
Semi-Weekly—Issued Tuesdays and Fridays.

Subscription Rates:

Per Month \$.25/er Month, Foreign \$.35
Per Year \$3.00/er Year, Foreign \$4.00
Payable Invariably in Advance.

CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

FRIDAY

APRIL 26

POLITICAL RESURRECTIONS.

Political revolutions are working strange changes in politicians, according to dispatches from the mainland. Men, snowed under, dig themselves out and become the chosen leaders. There is William Barnes of Albany, boss of New York, for example. They seem unable to lose William in New York, just as La Follette refuses to stay lost in the West. A year or two ago Barnes was said to be absolutely the most discredited politician in all the Empire State. But he was the master of the recent Republican State convention at Rochester, and he will come very near to being the master of the New York delegation of ninety men at the Chicago convention next June.

Barnes wanted to rule and he is crafty so those New York delegates go under resolutions, advising them to vote for the nomination of President Taft. That is all. It was due to Boss Barnes that they were not instructed. He has a little less leeway for trading and manipulating, perhaps, than if there had been no "advice" but because there were not hard and fast instructions, many brands of gossip are prevalent as to the possible things that Barnes may do in President making. The idea of forcing the renomination of Vice-President Sherman, of New York, is scouted in that connection. Nevertheless there is something in the suggestion. But a number of the big New York politicians want to put the President under obligations to them. If he is to have the nomination they want to be able to extort terms from him, which, by the way, is not an easy matter. Those New York Republican leaders literally hate the President politically. He has never dealt with them to their satisfaction. When the struggle over the Saratoga convention came in 1910, he threw the weight of his great influence against Vice-President Sherman and with ex-President Roosevelt. Sherman and Barnes have not forgotten that yet. When the Aldrich-Payne tariff law was in the framing, the President interposed and forced the elimination of high duties on women's gloves, which would have made for the benefit of ex-Representative Lucius Littauer, of Gloversville. Therefore Littauer dislikes the President cordially and for very similar reasons to those that move William L. Ward. But Ward and Littauer, while training with Roosevelt in this campaign, are all of one political family with Barnes and Sherman. Every man of that old guard in New York are moved by the same impulses and they anxiously seek to get a hand over the President. They have come very near to getting into the tactical position they desired. Barnes will be the central figure of the Chicago convention maneuvering, as appearances go now. If by any ally Taft is not renominated and some third man is selected, that third man must have the O. K. of Barnes as the first essential.

And then there is Senator La Follette. A month or so ago he was considered to be as dead as any herring, politically speaking. To all appearances he was dead, so dead that even his friends began to make arrangements for the funeral wreaths and flowers. But the West apparently would not consent to burying him. Instead it called him back to life and not even the political resurrection of William B. Bryan, peerless leader of the Democracy, could have given the politicians in the East a bigger shock than his announcement the other day that he plans to open his campaign in the Golden State this morning. He is steadily piling up delegates to the Chicago convention. That there is any possibility of his coming near the leaders probably not even he himself hopes, but doubtless, deep in his heart he thinks that there is a chance, a fighting chance for him to win out when the Taft-Roosevelt factions have worn themselves out fighting, and the straggling delegates unattached to any faction, are beginning to veer under the influence of new political breezes. His only hope is that Taft will not go to Chicago with such a preponderance of votes that there will be and can be no fight on the floor of the convention. Present indications give him little basis for that hope, however, as the President appears to gain strength daily.

LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE.

To learn by the catastrophes of others; to profit by the experience of our friends is real wisdom. Mr. Tenney, head of Castle & Cooke and one of the most prominent officials having to do with the management of the Matson line, announced yesterday that he proposes to profit by the awful fate of the White Star liner Titanic, and see to it while there is yet time, that the vessels of the Matson company are fitted with sufficient life-saving apparatus and that the wireless outfit on board is brought to the highest possible state of efficiency. Evidently Mr. Tenney is wise.

The world learns hard and slowly, but it learns, and if Mr. Tenney's example is followed by the owners and managers of other steamship lines, the sixteen hundred lives that were snuffed out in the Atlantic will not have gone out into the dark in vain. We live that others may live, now and in the future, and aside from the splendid example of heroism given by the passengers and crew of the wrecked White Star liner, there are the practical lessons, which may prove of service in mankind's everlasting struggle with the elements.

Mr. Tenney's move is along that line. His reference to the Paulson appliance, whereby, it is claimed, wireless messages sent out from distant ships are recorded even if the operators are absent, sounds good. One of the most pitiful features of the whole dreadful story of the Titanic was the presence of the Californian of the Leyland line, hardly twenty miles away. Her own wireless dead, as her engines had stopped, the Californian's captain and crew remained in ignorance of the disaster so near them. The story of the Titanic might have been vastly different had the Paulson invention been at work on the Californian. The frantic appeals for aid sent out by the sinking steamer would not then have spent themselves in midair, so far as the Leyland liner was concerned.

Science does much for us these days, but she can do nothing unless the men in charge of our great industries lend her a helping hand by taking advantage of the aids she offers them. Too often these managers have their eyes fastened too intently upon the dividend portion of their business, forgetting that sometimes the best way to save money is to spend it. Doubtless, if the dispatches from London and New York are correct, there was something of this lack of foresightedness in the attitude that permitted the officials of the White Star line to send out their great new steamer without binoculars for the man at the lookout, and which cut down the number of lifeboats to that required by an obsolete law. If this charge should prove true, it will be but another case where millions have been lost that pennies might be saved. Such shortsightedness Mr. Tenney evidently will have none of, and the patrons of the Matson line, past, present and to come, are to be congratulated that such is the case.

ROOSEVELT IN A CORNER.

In view of the latest disclosures regarding the undercover friendliness of the Roosevelt administration with the Morgan interests, the Harvester Trust particularly, many of the recent antitrust speeches of the would-be third-termers are going to return to plague him. His "We are practical men," written to the late E. H. Harriman, a phrase that he has not yet lived down, is now followed by the Perkins' letter, saying: "In view of the endeavors of the Harvester Trust and other interests of Mr. Morgan to uphold the Roosevelt administration such an attack upon the trust . . . is astonishing."

The story of Roosevelt's deal with the Morgans in connection with the Tennessee Coal and Iron corporation receives fresh light from the above, all of which will be most disconcerting to him when he attempts again to define the term "reactionary" and attach such opprobrium to it as he did this month at Louisville, Kentucky, saying:

Every man who, directly or indirectly, upholds privilege and favors the special interests, whether he acts from evil motives or merely because he is puzzle-headed or dull of mental vision or lacking in social sympathy, or whether he simply lacks interest in the subject, is a reactionary.

It now devolves upon Mr. Roosevelt to say whether his both direct and indirect favoring of the Harvester Trust was due to evil motives or to simple puzzle-headedness.

STAR CHAMBER METHODS.

In some private business undertakings, where the competition is intense, the need for secrecy is undoubted. The necessity of keeping one's own plans from one's rivals excuses it. This of course applies only to undertakings of a strictly private nature, and not to those which in any way affect the public health, welfare or pocketbook. In all such latter transactions open dealing and publicity are demanded by the interests of public policy. Clearly this is what the supreme court of the Territory believes and in the arraignment of the members of the Oahu Belt Road Commission printed in The Advertiser yesterday, that august tribunal says in legal language, just about the same thing this paper has been telling the commissioners for months.

The commission's conduct of the public business intrusted to its care has been little short of disgraceful, if indeed it has not frequently passed that mark. The attitude of "the public be damned," adopted by the chairman, may indeed do when handling his own affairs, although even there is a man with intelligence sufficient to make a success at anything more than banking the money others have coined for him, would for prudential and business reasons adopt a more conciliatory tone. The hole-in-the-corner, secretive methods of the loan fund commission have been on a par with some of the "sugar planter methods," and have done much to get the commissioners into bad odor with the more intelligent business men of the Territory.

Certainly those methods will not do in public business. They indicate the same attitude which has brought upon Mr. Franklin, vice-president of the great Mercantile Marine, the attacks and opprobrium of the people of England and America, following his deliberately falsified statements regarding the Titanic disaster. In effect what he said was "your money goes into my coffers, but you have no earthly right, and indeed it is most presumptuous of you, to ask for any information regarding the conduct of the affairs of the company you are supporting." The people of Oahu will pay the money the belt road commission is supposed to be handling. Yet the commissioners declared in effect that the public had no right to know how that money was being expended. The supreme court, fortunately, has disabused their minds of that idea, if indeed they are capable of understanding the plain lesson of the decision.

Let us hope that the commissioners, with the decision before their eyes, will abandon their childishness, and get down to business. The interests of the island have suffered too long from their incompetence. They were appointed in the hope that they would show some of the brains so signally lacking in the elected officers of the county. Instead of that they have, to date, done nothing worth while. They have fooled away their time, and the only step forward they did take has just been rendered futile by their silly obstinacy and refusal to heed the suggestions of their own intimates.

The court's decision gives a chance for the commissioners to make good. Their folly has reacted upon themselves, and though they suffer they suffer less than does the general public, deprived so needlessly of the much needed roads. Let the commissioners drop the fancy ideas they formerly insisted upon. Let them abandon the boulevard plan and draw up specifications that will meet with the approval of the people as a whole. They have hitherto ignored the public's wishes for a plain serviceable road, and forced through their own ideas, careless of all considerations other than those their own inclinations furnished. They have now an opportunity to retrieve themselves, show that after all they are intelligent members of the community, and that they do appreciate their obligations as public servants and are not so idiotic as to believe they are all powerful, or that a created organization can be greater than its creator.

TAFT HOLDING THE FORT.

Taftites are holding the forts after some amazing assaults. The fray, however, has increased in intensity and the casualties have been very heavy on both sides. If it gets no worse, everything is well, but there is increased anxiety among the fearful as to what will happen next. That awful Illinois total was shocking and Pennsylvania was worse. Experts have been trying to analyze and explain, but, of course, the rank and file of folks are not interested in that. There was no great Roosevelt enthusiasm in the adjacent State of Wisconsin, not enough to warrant putting a Roosevelt ticket aside against Senator La Follette. In Wisconsin, La Follette swept everything, but in Illinois, where his propaganda was supposed to be strong, he cut a pitiful figure against the former President.

There is no arguing against the importance of Taft's defeats in Illinois and the Keystone State. But the very next day after Chicago and the State of Illinois had voted against him, the city of St. Louis, just across the river from Illinois, and in the State of Missouri, which has been described as on fire for Roosevelt, went overwhelmingly for Taft. Connecticut ignored Pennsylvania's lead and voted for the Ohioans. It was not a full fledged primary in St. Louis to be sure, any more than there was throughout the States of Iowa and Michigan, where the President had scored a succession of delegate victories. But the Roosevelt people have made their presence felt in many a State where there were no full fledged primaries and it seems to be a fair inference that insurgency may be waning in Iowa and Michigan and St. Louis, although rampant for the moment in Illinois.

The situation will now steady a little in all probability, but Washington alone the less quivers with expectancy. President Taft is still far in the lead, his delegate column is growing daily, he is getting nearer and nearer to the majority mark. And yet official people by the Potomac fix their eyes upon every little dinkey convention which has the selection of two delegates to the Chicago convention.

The tenser the status becomes, the more likelihood there is of a party smashing conflict at Chicago over the seating of contesting delegations. As soon as the holding of these minor conventions is over, the tasks of the Republican national committee will bulk large. Its sessions at Chicago may have to begin three or four weeks before the convention assemblies. During all that time there will be another period of political agony. Since the Roosevelt vote in Illinois and Pennsylvania, even though President Taft has a good round majority of the delegates, it is plain that the Roosevelt managers can institute sufficient contests to threaten the Taft majority if only they can secure the delegates pledged to La Follette and scattering. One thing, however, stands out amid all the conjecture, and that is, there is going to be some tall fighting when the Republican convention for 1912 gets down to work.

IRISH HOME RULE.

The dark eleventh hour
Draws on and sees us sold
To every evil power
We fought against of old.

Rebellion, rapine, hate,
Oppression, wrong and greed
Are loosed to rule our fate
By England's act and deed.

The faith in which we stand,
The laws we make and guard,
Our honor, lives and land,
Are given for reward.

To murder done by night;
To treason taught by day.
To folly, sloth and spite,
And we are thrust away.

Thus writes Rudyard Kipling in his latest poem "Ulster" concerning the Irish Home Rule bill recently introduced in the British house of commons, the poet of the Empire losing no time in throwing himself into the thick of what promises to be a burning question for many months to come among the British. Incidentally, the poet has been already denounced on the floor of the house and the government has been advised to order his arrest on a charge of treason because of the language of his lay.

The Asquith Home Rule measure was introduced on the eleventh of the present month and only the briefest of particulars have as yet reached this far from Westminster. The main features of the bill are:

There are to be forty-two Irish members at Westminster as well as 164 in the Irish house of commons at Dublin, and forty in the Irish senate. The senators will be nominated at first by the crown and subsequently nominated, in part at least, by the Irish ministers as is done in Canada. Gladstone's 1886 bill provided that there should be no Irish representation at Westminster. His 1893 bill provided for eighty Irish members at Westminster voting on Irish affairs only. The present bill provides that Ireland shall make no contribution to the imperial expenditure for six years any way. Gladstone's 1886 bill provided for \$17,000,000 annually, and his 1893 bill for \$12,000,000 to the imperial exchequer. The present bill provides for a contribution from

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the imperial chest to the Irish exchequer of about \$10,000,000 annually, in addition to the provision for land purchase and old-age pensions running into \$10,000,000 more. Gladstone's 1886 and 1893 bills provided that there should be no imperial contribution to Ireland.

Gladstone's bill of 1886 restrained the Irish government from interfering with the army and navy, foreign and colonial affairs and religious endowments. His 1893 bill restrained Ireland from interfering with the crown, regency, vice-royalty, the army, the navy, defence, treaties and foreign relations, dignities, titles, the law of treason, the law of alienage, external trade and coinage. Asquith's bill restrains the Irish parliament from dealing with religion, denominational education and marriage, prevents it from depriving anyone of life, liberty or property without process of law and from denying equal protection of the laws or taking property without just compensation and prevents from imposing disabilities because of birth, parentage or place of business. Asquith's bill also provides for the control of the Irish Constabulary by the imperial parliament, but only till such time as the new local forces under Irish control can replace them.

Kipling's appeal to the religious prejudice of those who can be so appealed to—and that seems to be very many—is only one of a multitude. The country so recently plunged into the depths and close to the famine point, in a conflict between capital and labor, appears now ready to seethe from end to end over sectarian differences, in which there will be little time for a sane discussion of the economic and political features of Home Rule amid the clamor of religious strife.

"Ulster dare not accept a scheme which would gravely impair our civil and religious liberties," says Rt. Hon. Thomas Sinclair, voicing the sentiments of Protestants of North Ireland, while the opposition press of England ridicules the measure on one hand and denounces it on the other. "Mr. Asquith's pharisaical protestations leave undisguised one of the most scandalous political bargains ever concluded," declares the Morning Post. The Standard calls the bill "a combination of muddle and fraud," and the Yorkshire Post says the whole idea is "a barefaced blackmail of the English people." "The financial scheme borders upon lunacy," adds that organ, while the Scotsman says: "It is a bill of compromises and pretences, a thing of shreds and patches, even more so than the two previously condemned Home Rule measures."

Despite all which, Ireland appears on the road toward her Home Rule ambition.

CRITICISM TO PROFIT BY.

Why all this pother about the "Dougher" interview in the mainland press regarding the leprosy situation in Hawaii? Everyone who knows anything about Hawaii at all knows that there is leprosy in the islands and that the medical authorities are as far, if not farther, advanced in handling it as in any part of the world. Very few people are kept from coming here because of the leprosy stories in circulation, the worst of which have not come from Doctor Ramus or any other man who knows what he is talking about, but have come from sensation-mongering writers like Jack London, or from the pens of those who continue to write about Father Damien and Robert Louis Stevenson's life in Hawaii.

There is enough truth in the "Dougher" story to pay attention to, and the fact that there is should enlist the cooperation of the thinking people in the community in a campaign for better sanitary regulations and a better observance of what sanitary regulations we have. Striking maledictions at the writers for the mainland press is not going to accomplish any good, while an intelligent campaign for better local conditions may.

So long, of course, as a portion of the presumably educated and thinking people of Honolulu defend filth and make capital out of ignorance and throw every possible obstacle in the path of those who would place the city on a sanitary basis, just that long will there be a ground of truth for whatever sensation makers desire to write about our health conditions. It is about time Honolulu learned to profit by criticism and stopped whining out curses against everyone who fails to go into raptures over us. Honolulu has plenty to do before it can invite real criticism by denouncing those who casually find things to complain of.

ANTISHIP TRUST BILL.

The bill drawn up by Attorney-General Wickersham and presented to the house in the effort to break the hold of the alleged foreign shipping combine, will have its influence on the Pacific if it becomes law. It has been frequently charged, and never denied, that the Pacific Mail is in a freight combine with the Toyo Kisen Kaisha line, which combine also takes in the American and Japanese lines plying between the Orient and Seattle. The alleged Pacific freight trust is run on the ordinary rebate system, preventing independent competition.

The Wickersham Bill deals with foreign ships and American ships as well. Under its terms the right to entry and clearance in any American port is denied to any foreign ship which is owned or controlled by any person, company or association which has been adjudged guilty of violation of the Sherman antitrust law by a court of the United States, if such ship is being used to carry out the object adjudged unlawful.

The bill also contains a provision directing the postmaster-general to cancel ocean mail contracts with ships in such a combine. The scope of the measure is shown by the fact that it includes corporations and associations, as well as persons, doing business under laws of either the United States or any State or Territory or the laws of any other country in the world.

The supreme court and the circuit court have each given us their opinion of the Adams' method of doing public business. It now devolves upon Chairman Adams of the loan fund commission to favor us with his views upon the courts.

Parties and Municipalities

"Hartford goes Republican," "Milwaukee's fusionists win," "Thirteen Democratic mayors elected in Kansas"—so read the reports from the various municipalities which held elections on Tuesday, says the New York Herald.

It is the old, old American story of politics instead of policies running our cities and running a majority of them in such a way that American municipal governments have become notorious the world over for corruption, wastefulness and incompetency.

No man has ever been able to explain what Democratic or Republican policies can do to benefit a city, yet year after year the Democrats and Republicans line up the voters under these emblems and make them believe that a national party platform is a cure for all municipal ills.

There is only one remedy for the ills of American cities, and that is a nonpartisan administration of municipal affairs by honest men trained in conducting large enterprises. There ought to be an end of this use of the taxpayers' money to promote the propagandas of political parties in cities. The taxpayers want their money to go into better streets, better transportation facilities and better schools. Some day they will demand that mayoralty candidates find their platforms at home and let the candidates for the presidency fight over the national policies which are responsible for the Democratic and Republican parties.